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STATE OF WISCONSIN
Division of Hearings and Appeals

In the Matter of

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

DECISION

MPA/170715

PRELIMINARY RECITALS

Pursuant to a petition filed December 08, 2015, under Wis. Stat. § 49.45(5), and Wis. Admin. Code § HA 3.03(1), to review a decision by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in regard to Medical Assistance, a telephone hearing was held on March 22, 2016. Hearings previously scheduled for February 2, 2016, and February 24, 2016, were rescheduled at petitioner's request.

The issue for determination is whether the Department erred in its denial of PA request # [REDACTED] for personal care worker (PCW) services.

There appeared at that time the following persons:

PARTIES IN INTEREST:

Petitioner:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I

Respondent:

Department of Health Services
1 West Wilson Street, Room 651
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

By: [REDACTED] RN BSN (written appearance only)
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability
1 West Wilson Street, Room 272
P.O. Box 309
Madison, WI 53707-0309

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:

Peter McCombs
Division of Hearings and Appeals

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Petitioner is a resident of Milwaukee County.
2. Petitioner has documented diagnoses of diabetes mellitus (type 2) and asthma or COPD. Medical records also refer to suspected developmental/learning disability. He resides with his father and brother, and his family provides his cares presently.

3. On September 18, 2015, Helen's Supportive Services requested authorization for 12.25 hours per week PCW services for a one-year period, PA no. [REDACTED]. On September 22, 2015, the provider submitted a second PA request identifying a need for 21 PCW hours per week.
4. By a letter dated November 23, 2015, the OIG denied the PCW hours requested stating that the request did not meet ForwardHealth guidelines for coverage.

DISCUSSION

Personal care services are "medically oriented activities related to assisting a recipient with activities of daily living necessary to maintain the recipient in his or her place of residence in the community." Wis. Admin. Code, §DHS 107.112(1)(a). Covered services include the following:

1. Assistance with bathing;
2. Assistance with getting in and out of bed;
3. Teeth, mouth, denture and hair care;
4. Assistance with mobility and ambulation including use of walker, cane or crutches;
5. Changing the recipient's bed and laundering the bed linens and the recipient's personal clothing;
6. Skin care excluding wound care;
7. Care of eyeglasses and hearing aids;
8. Assistance with dressing and undressing;
9. Toileting, including use and care of bedpan, urinal, commode or toilet;
10. Light cleaning in essential areas of the home used during personal care service activities;
11. Meal preparation, food purchasing and meal serving;
12. Simple transfers including bed to chair or wheelchair and reverse; and
13. Accompanying the recipient to obtain medical diagnosis and treatment.

Wis. Admin. Code, §DHS 107.112(b).

Personal care workers can spend no more than one-third of their time performing housekeeping activities. Like all medical assistance services, PCW services must be medically necessary and cost effective. Wis. Admin. Code, §DHS 107.02(3)(e)1 and 3. At hearing on the issue of modification of a PA request, it is the burden of petitioner or the provider to establish the need and appropriateness of the requested services. Petitioner has done neither based on this record.

The OIG denied the PA request in its entirety. In making this determination, OIG initially used the Personal Care Screening Tool, a computer program it believes will allow it to consistently determine the number of hours required by each recipient. The screening tool allots a specific amount of time in each area the recipient requires help, which the OIG's reviewer can then adjust to account for variables missing from the screening tool's calculations. The OIG then completed its analysis based upon consideration of petitioner's submitted medical records.

The reason that the OIG now is looking closely at PCW requests is evident in a case such as this one. Petitioner did not provide specific times necessary for providing the PCW services, but instead testified that PCW time was needed because of petitioner's unique circumstances and needs. Petitioner's brother testified that petitioner is mentally retarded and is schizophrenic. No submitted medical records confirmed this however. Additionally, nothing was quantified in terms of time needed. Without a better way to quantify the time for services, however, I find it difficult to overturn the respondent's determination.

Petitioner should be aware that if his provider can show a medical need for the requested PCW time, it can always request a new PA with evidence to show the need for the PCW time. However, based upon the evidence before me I cannot conclude that the PCW denial was wrong.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The OIG's denial of the request for PCW hours was appropriate based upon petitioner's documented medical needs and the Department's policies for PCW approval.

THEREFORE, it is

ORDERED

That the petition for review herein be and the same is hereby dismissed.

REQUEST FOR A REHEARING

You may request a rehearing if you think this decision is based on a serious mistake in the facts or the law or if you have found new evidence that would change the decision. Your request must be **received within 20 days after the date of this decision**. Late requests cannot be granted.

Send your request for rehearing in writing to the Division of Hearings and Appeals, 5005 University Avenue, Suite 201, Madison, WI 53705-5400 **and** to those identified in this decision as "PARTIES IN INTEREST." Your rehearing request must explain what mistake the Administrative Law Judge made and why it is important or you must describe your new evidence and explain why you did not have it at your first hearing. If your request does not explain these things, it will be denied.

The process for requesting a rehearing may be found at Wis. Stat. § 227.49. A copy of the statutes may be found online or at your local library or courthouse.

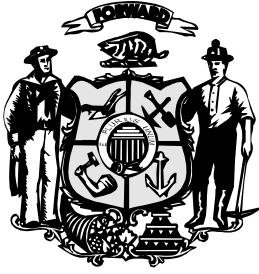
APPEAL TO COURT

You may also appeal this decision to Circuit Court in the county where you live. Appeals must be filed with the Court **and** served either personally or by certified mail on the Secretary of the Department of Health Services, 1 West Wilson Street, Room 651, Madison, Wisconsin 53703, **and** on those identified in this decision as "PARTIES IN INTEREST" **no more than 30 days after the date of this decision** or 30 days after a denial of a timely rehearing (if you request one).

The process for Circuit Court Appeals may be found at Wis. Stat. §§ 227.52 and 227.53. A copy of the statutes may be found online or at your local library or courthouse.

Given under my hand at the City of Madison,
Wisconsin, this 20th day of April, 2016

\sPeter McCombs
Administrative Law Judge
Division of Hearings and Appeals



State of Wisconsin\DIVISION OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

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The preceding decision was sent to the following parties on April 20, 2016.

Division of Health Care Access and Accountability